



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 24, 2015

Accepted / Filed

JUN 24 2015

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Via Hand Delivery

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2015 ETC Annual Report of West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 240550

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("West Carolina"), JSI files the attached confidential and redacted versions of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.¹ West Carolina seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.² The redacted version is also being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of its Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan as required by Section 54.313(a)(1).³

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

cc: Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division (two copies, confidential)

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

² *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Protective Order, DA 15-712 rel. June 17, 2015 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313(a)(1).

No. of Copies rec'd 0+3
List ABCDE

Echelon Building II, Suite 200
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608

547 South Oakview Lane
Bountiful, UT 84010
phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-5124



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 24, 2015

Accepted / Filed

JUN 24 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2015 ETC Annual Report of West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 240550
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. ("JSI"), on behalf of its client West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Company") hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,¹ withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).²

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company's annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules ("Report").³
2. Pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(1), Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") must file with the Commission a Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan ("Progress Report") which is contained in the attachment to the 2015 Report.⁴
3. The information contained in attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(1).

Echelon Building II, Suite 200
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

Eagendale Corporate Center, Suite 310
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608

547 South Oakview Lane
Bountiful, UT 84010
phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-5124

4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the subject attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information is of a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The Line 112 attachment contains competitively sensitive information related to proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance the Company's network.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC. The FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories."⁵ The Company's Progress Report updates this information as well as provides maps and detailed information as to whether or not network improvement objectives were achieved at the wire center level. Accordingly, because the Company is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file Progress Reports which contain proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network including the specific locations of customers as well as describe proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area. Specifically, this information sets forth services provided by the Company over its existing network including specific locations of customers as well as planned network improvement and maintenance for the years 2015 through 2019 including project start and completion dates, population that will be impacted by the improvements and upgrades at the wire center level and projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades and operating costs associated with maintaining the network including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network as well as detailed plans at the wire center level for network upgrades and maintenance projected for the years 2015 through 2019.

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the Line 112 attachment is information that is not customarily released to the public. This information is proprietary to the Company, is unique to the Company's serving territory and is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors who would be able to target their marketing to specific customers. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive. If publicly disclosed, it would enable competitors to craft business plans that capitalize on their knowledge of the locations of the Company's customers which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.

⁵ See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) ("*March 5, 2013 Order*") at para 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing the attachment under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the Five-Year Plan to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.
7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. Not applicable.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form	REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION	<small>FCC Form 481</small> <small>OMB Control No. 3060-0058/OMB Control No. 3060-0019</small> <small>July 2013</small>
---	---------------------------------------	---

<010> Study Area Code 240550

<015> Study Area Name WEST CAROLINA RURAL

<020> Program Year 2016

<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data Lance Tade

<035> Contact Telephone Number: 8644462111 ext. Number of the person identified in data line <030>

<039> Contact Email Address: lance.tade@wctel.com Email of the person identified in data line <030>

Accepted / Filed

JUN 24 2015

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS	54.313 Completion Required	58.422 Completion Required
-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

<100> Service Quality Improvement Reporting (complete attached worksheet) (check box when complete)

<200> Outage Reporting (voice) (complete attached worksheet)

<210> ☒ <-- check box if no outages to report

<300> Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) 0

<310> Detail on Attempts (voice) (attach descriptive document)

<320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband) 0

<330> Detail on Attempts (broadband) (attach descriptive document)

<400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)

<410> Fixed 0.0

<420> Mobile 0.0

<430> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)

<440> Fixed 0.0

<450> Mobile 0.0

<500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance (check to indicate certification)

<510> 240550sc510.pdf (attached descriptive document)

<600> Functionality in Emergency Situations (check to indicate certification)

<610> 240550sc610.pdf (attached descriptive document)

<700> Company Price Offerings (voice) (complete attached worksheet)

<710> Company Price Offerings (broadband) (complete attached worksheet)

<800> Operating Companies and Affiliates (complete attached worksheet)

<900> Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)? ☐ ☒ (if yes, complete attached worksheet)

<1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification Yes

<1010> (attach descriptive document)

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No) ☒ ☐ (if not, check to indicate certification)

<1110> (complete attached worksheet)

<1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers (complete attached worksheet)

Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

<2000> (check to indicate certification)

<2005> (complete attached worksheet)

Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

<3000> (check to indicate certification)

<3005> (complete attached worksheet)

**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240550
<015>	Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com
<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
	If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5	
<111>	year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

240550sc112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality
- <116> How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Not Applicable

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240550
<015>	Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

[illegible]

(710) Broadband Price Offerings Data Collection Form PCC Form 481
 OMS Control No. 3060-0986 / OMS Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240550
<015>	Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

[illegible]

(800) Operating Companies Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	---

<010>	Study Area Code	240550
<015>	Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative

[illegible]

**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	240550
<015> Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.**
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;**
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;**
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes**
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements**
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules**
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes**
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes**
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.**

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0386/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
--	---

<010> Study Area Code	240550
<015> Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

<1120> Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers Lifeline Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
--	---

<010> Study Area Code	240550
<015> Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP wctelephone.com/pdfs/Lifeline_and_Linkup.pdf

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,

☒
- <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,

☒
- <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.

☒

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation Data Collection Form <i>Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers</i>	FCC Form 487 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	240550
<015> Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	LANCE TADE
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8888882111 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wcccl.com

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2010> 2nd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)i)
- <2011a> 3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)
- <2011b> Attachment (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))

- <2012> 2013 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1))
- <2013> 2014 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2))
- <2014> 2015 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3))
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4))

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))

- <2016> Certification Support Used to Build Broadband

--

Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))

- <2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification
- <2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification
- <2019> Interim Progress Certification
- <2020> Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

- <2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

--

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

For distribution: 800-638-6868, Copyright © 1999

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(3006) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

ICC Form 483

Date Collection Form

Case Control No. 3509-0250 Case Control No. 3500-0619

July 2015

<010> Study Area Code	240550
<015> Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	PCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	240550
<015> Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0085/OMB Control No. 3060-0618 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	240550
<015> Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>John Staurulakis, Inc.</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Name of Reporting Carrier:	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Lance Tade
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	C
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	8644469256 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	240550
Filing Due Date for this form:	07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Lans Chase
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Staff Director - Regulatory
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	7705692105 ext.1
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	240550
Filing Due Date for this form:	07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Attachments

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 112

**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and
Progress Report**

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s Demonstration of Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules:

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make "a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers."² The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA's Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, "to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement."⁴

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Company") hereby certifies that it is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations under both federal and South Carolina state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina which disclose rates, and terms and conditions of service to customers (Section 103-612.2.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) ("*2005 ETC Order*").

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: "(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy." *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

which govern Standards and Quality of Service (Sections 103-661, 103-662, and 103-663 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Customer Relations, including billing, deposits, discontinuance and termination of service (Sections 103-620 through 103-633 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Engineering and Safety Standards (Sections 103-640 through 103-646 and 103-670 through 103-672 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Inspections and Tests (Sections 103-650 through 103-653 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Records and Reports (Sections 103-610 through 103-619 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations) and Customer Complaints (Section 103-628 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (3) truth-in-billing requirements (Section 103-622.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in F.C.C. 47 C.F.R. Part 8 §8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the 2015 Open Internet Order when it becomes effective.

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Demonstration of Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., ("Company") hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2)¹ and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. The Company's voice and broadband network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities within its core network, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2) and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. The Company has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as the Company has access to fuel.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to "demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations."

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form**

PCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0985, OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240550
<015>	Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date
<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

1/1/2015

<703>

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0619
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240550
<015>	Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form
FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240550
<015>	Study Area Name	WEST CAROLINA RURAL
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Lance Tade
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8644462111 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	lance.tade@wctel.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative

[illegible]

West Carolina Rural Telephone Coop – 240550

Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

West Carolina Rural Telephone Coop - 240550 hereby certifies that throughout 2014, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, and currently, it is taking reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream broadband service at with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas as determined in an annual survey, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

West Carolina Rural Telephone Coop – 240550

Response to Line 3012 - List of Community Anchor Institutions to Which the ETC Newly Began Providing Service

The FCC's *USF/ICC Transformation Order* requires a listing of community anchor institutions to which the ETC newly began providing broadband service. As an incumbent LEC, WCRTC currently provides broadband service to all community anchor institutions requesting service in its service area. WCRTC did not newly begin providing community anchor institutions with access to broadband service in calendar year 2014.¹

Number	Name	Address
		No new anchor institutions in 2014.

¹ The FCC has defined community anchor institutions in Section 54.5 of its Rules as "schools, libraries, health care providers, community colleges, other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and entities."

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY